

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OPIC-03 SAM-01

SAJ-01 IO-10 EB-07 OMB-01 TRSE-00 EURE-00 SY-05 OPR-02

SCCT-01 USSS-00 A-01 OC-05 CCO-00 AID-05 SCS-03 SCA-01

DHA-02 /106 W

----- 119298

P R 181700Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3462

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION NATO

DIA WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 4070

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PO

SUBJ: POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS: OPORTO CONFRONTATION

REF: LISBON 4044

SUMMARY: RIVAL DEMONSTRATIONS THIS EVENING (JULY 18) IN OPORTO  
COULD LEAD TO VIOLENCE. PS SUPPORTERS AND INTERSINDICAL MILITANTS  
APPEAR TO BE ON A COLLISION COURSE. ARMED FORCES ARE ON GENERAL  
ALERT STATUS. PPD RALLY IN OPORTO JULY 17 DREW 25 - 30,000,  
WITHOUT INCIDENTS. SMALLER PS RALLY IN BRAGA SAME EVENING ALSO  
TOOK PLACE WITHOUT INCIDENT. PRIME MINISTER HAS RENEWED EFFORT  
TO FIND INDIVIDUALS TO SERVE IN NEW "NON-PARTY" GOVERN-  
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MENT COMPOSED OF CIVILIANS AND MILITARY MEN. RALIS COMMANDER

DENIS DE ALMEIDA HAS WRITTEN "DIARIO DE NOTICIAS" COMPLAINTING OF "DISTORTED" COVERAGE OF RALIS' ROLE IN JULY 16 LISBON DEMONSTRATION. END SUMMARY

1. CONFRONTATION LOOMS IN OPORTO: SIGNS CONTINUE TO POINT TO POSSIBLE PHYSICAL CONFRONTATION BETWEEN RIVAL DEMONSTRATORS IN OPORTO EVENING JULY 18 (REFTEL). OMINOUS BUILDUP INCLUDES:

- BOTH INTERSINDICAL AND SOCIALISTS ARE POSTING PICKETS ON ROADS LEADING INTO CITY -- INTERSINDICAL TO PREVENT ARRIVAL OF OUTSIDE PARTICIPANTS, PS TO ENSURE THEIR ARRIVAL.
- PCP HAD RENEWED ITS CALL FOR POPULAR VIGILANCE TO GUARD AGAINST THE BUILDING WAVE OF "REACTION." (STATEMENT BY PCP REGIONAL DIRECTORATE FOR NORTH BROADCAST IN LISBON JULY 17 ASSERTED THAT "THE RECENT MEETING IN MADRID BETWEEN THE AMERICAN AMBASSADOR IN PORTUGAL AND THE CHIEF OF CIA SHOWS WELL THAT ALL OF THEIR PROVOCATIVE ACTIVITIES ARE COORDINATED.")
- PCP OFFICES IN TOWNS OF LOURINHA AND CADAVAL, SOME 50 MILES NORTH OF LISBON, WERE SACKED JULY 17 BY ANGRY TOWNSPEOPLE.
- PCP SOUND TRACK SEEKING VOLUNTEERS TO JOIN INTERSINDICAL PICKETS WAS DESTROYED AFTERNOON JULY 18 IN PORT OF MATOSINHOS.
- ALTHOUGH SITES OF RIVAL DEMONSTRATIONS IN OPORTO ARE IN DIFFERENT PARTS OF CITY, ONE OF INITIAL GATHERING POINTS FOR PS PARTICIPANTS IS ACTUAL LOCATION OF INTERSINDICAL-SUPPORTED RALLY.
- PS IN OPORTO HAS ANNOUNCED THAT RALLY WILL GO FORWARD WITH OR WITHOUT MILITARY APPROVAL.
- ARMED FORCES HAVE BEEN PLACED ON GENERAL ALERT.

2. PPD HOLDS RALLY: AMCONSUL OPORTO ESTIMATES 25 - 30,000 PARTICIPATED IN PPD-SPONSORED RALLY EVENING JULY 17. NO INCIDENTS REPORTED. SPEAKER THEMES STRESSED FALTERING ECONOMY MARKED BY HIGH EMPLOYMENT AND RISE IN PRICES PLUS A MINORITY CONTROLLED PRESS. DIRECT ATTACKS ON PCP MET WITH ENTHUSIASTIC CROWD RESPONSE. OPORTO BRANCH OF PS, IN TACTICAL STATEMENT REFLECTING TRADITIONAL STRONG PS-PPD RIVALRY IN OPORTO, BRANDED PPD MEETING AS "POLITICAL OPPORTUNISM." PCP STATEMENT LUMPED PPD TOGETHER WITH PS AND CDS AS "REACTIONARIES OF THE NORTH" OUT TO "DESTROY THE REVOLUTION." RALLY FOLLOWED JULY 17 PPD COMMUNIQUE STATING REASONS FOR LEAVING COALITION. CONFIDENTIAL

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COMMUNIQUE STRESSED GOP REJECTION OF PPD DEMANDS AND GENERAL CRISIS IN AUTHORITY, MINORITY CONTROL OF A GOVERNMENT WHICH HAS NOT GOVERNED, SYSTEMATIC DESTRUCTION OF CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY, SEVERE ECONOMIC DECLINE, AND FLAUNTING OF POPULAR WILL. SMALLER PS RALLY IN BRAGA JULY 17, ATTENDED BY SOARES, ALSO TOOK PLACE WITHOUT INCIDENT.

3. FOLLOW-UP TO RC MEETING: FOLLOWING INCONCLUSIVE RESULTS

OF JULY 17 REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL (RC) MEETING, PRIME MINISTER VASCO GONCALVES HAS RENEWED EFFORTS TO FIND INDIVIDUALS WILLING TO SERVE ON "NON-PARTY" GOVERNMENT MADE UP OF BOTH CIVILIAN AND MILITARY MEN. SEVERAL ADDITIONAL MEMBERS OF FORMER COALITION GOVERNMENT HAVE ASKED TO BE RELIEVED FROM THEIR DUTIES. MINISTER OF INDUSTRY JOAO CRAVINHO AND SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL COOPERATION JORFE SAMPAIO, BOTH FORMER MEMBERS OF MES, DELIVERED A LONG DOCUMENT TO THE PRIME MINISTER JULY 17 CALLING FOR A FUNDAMENTAL REEXAMINATION OF POLITICAL DIRECTION BEING FOLLOWED BY GOVERNMENT RATHER THAN A SIMPLE RE-SHUFFLING OF CABINET MEMBERS. MEANWHILE, FOREIGN MINISTER MELO ANTUNES DEPARTED FOR ROME JULY 17 TO URGE THE ITALIAN'S TO RE-CONSIDER THEIR POSITION ON EEC ASSISTANCE TO PORTUGAL. WE UNDERSTAND THAT "MODERATES" WITHIN THE RC HAVE NOT GIVEN UP THEIR EFFORTS TO ENGINEER THE REMOVAL OF PRIME MINISTER VASCO GONCALVES (SEPTEL).

4. RALIS EXPLAINS ROLE IN LISBON DEMONSTRATION: JULY 18  
"DIARIO DE NOTICIAS" CARRIED TEXT OF LETTER FROM RALIS COMMANDER MAJ DENIS DE ALMEIDA "CLARIFYING" RALIS' PARTICIPATION IN JULY 15 LISBON DEMONSTRATION (REFTEL). LETTER SAID SOLDIERS WERE NOT ORDERED TO PARTICIPATE BY ANY UNIT COMMANDER AND WERE "AUTHORIZED" TO PARTICIPATE IN SENSE THAT THEY WERE NOT FORBIDDEN TO TAKE PART. MILITARY VEHICLES (APC'S AND SELF PROPELLED ARTILLERY) WERE SENT ONLY TO FACILITATE SOLDIERS' RETURN SINCE THE VEHICLES ARE NORMALLY DRIVEN TO THAT AREA EACH WEEK. "TECHNICAL REASONS" PREVENTED SOLDIERS FROM REMOVING CIVILIANS WHO MOUNTED VEHICLES. LETTER ALSO CHARGED "DIARIO WITH DISTORTED REPORT OF EVENT IN JULY 17 ISSUE. MINISTRY OF SOCIAL COMMUNICATIONS HAS SENT "DIARIO" OFFICIAL NOTE ANNOUNCING INVESTIGATION OF AN UNSPECIFIED DISTORTED AND SUBJECTIVE REPORT IN JULY 17 ISSUE.

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5. COMMENT: VIOLENCE IN SOME FORM IS POSSIBLE BEFORE THE WEEKEND IS OVER. CLASHES COULD COME IN OPORTO THIS EVENING JULY 18 OR TOMORROW AT THE SOCIALIST RALLY IN LISBON. SHOULD VIOLENCE OCCUR, THE ROLE OF COPCON BEARS SPECIAL WATCHING. COPCON COMMANDER GENERAL OTELO SARAIVA DE CARVALHO OCCUPIES A PIVOTAL ROLE WITHIN THE RC. HOW COPCON RESPONDS IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS SHOULD GIVE RC "MODERATES" FURTHER INDICATION OF PROSPECTS FOR SUPPORT FROM OTELO. LAST TIME THAT PCP THREATENED TO SET UP ROADBLOCKS, OTELO SAID COPCON WOULD REMOVE THEM.  
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## Message Attributes

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**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
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